



## **COUNCIL CHAMBER**

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**FINANCE**

## **CITY COUNCIL** CITY OF CHICAGO

**Howard B. Brookins, Jr.**  
Alderman, 21st Ward

August 25, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Re: "MB Docket No. 14-57"*

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I support Comcast's program to provide discounted connections and computers to families with at least one child eligible to participate in the NSLP. Comcast's service is of the highest quality. I understand the company has invested over \$ 6.4 billion in our state to improve infrastructure and technology in just the last 20 years. Internet Essentials beneficiaries get that quality without breaking their budgets. Students and their families can access job, medical, and educational resources around the clock without needing to head to a library, school, or community center. The Gap in access must be closed. In Chicago, thanks to Comcast, we are making progress toward closing the digital divide with over 33,000 households enrolled in Internet Essentials. Your commission can make greater access possible by approving the proposed transaction and allowing this program to expand to new cities and low-income families.

And when they do connect either online or to Comcast's cable television service they will benefit from Comcast's diverse array of programming in addition to my role as alderman. I am a board member of Community Media Workshop, which works to connect underserved communities to media outlets to promote news. Our work wouldn't be possible without Comcast's carriage of 160 independent TV channels and its dedication to diverse offerings across video and on-line platforms. Comcast's commitment ensures that all community voices are heard, whether they are speaking from traditional centers of privilege or from my district on the South Side.

Comcast also know that healthy business practices are not enough. The company has impactful and sustained corporate citizenship partnerships. A tangible and impressive example of that impact, Comcast mobilized nearly 6,000 Illinois volunteers for its Comcast Cares Day in 2013. Comcast's service isn't just about dollars and cents but about relationships and human capital. As an elected official community advocate, I seek to strengthen those relationships, not just in my ward,

but in all areas of Chicago. Approval of this transaction will allow those relationships to flourish and spread to many more communities.

Please approve this transaction to empower our neediest communities and Expand opportunities for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard B. Brookins, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Howard B. Brookins, Jr.